

## Board to vote today on I-10 widening project

## **Jessica Coomes**

The Arizona Republic Sept. 21, 2007 08:03 AM

The Arizona State Transportation Board is meeting Friday morning to vote on a funding agreement to speed up the Interstate 10 widening through the Southwest Valley, where three cities are stuck in a feud that could delay the project.

The Arizona Department of Transportation has been ready to advertise the project to contractors for more than a month but has been waiting for a funding agreement to be settled among MAG, the transportation board and the three cities - Goodyear, Avondale and Litchfield Park.

The Maricopa Association of Governments decided the cities should be awarded \$7 million from the state for the project, which will cost \$9.7 million to accelerate. That means the cities themselves would have to come up with \$2.7 million.

The transportation board this morning could agree to MAG's decision or modify it.

The three cities' disagreement over how much each will pay could lead to construction delays.

Goodyear proposes paying \$1.6 million, with Avondale paying \$1 million and Litchfield Park, \$80,000.

Avondale and Litchfield Park want Goodyear to pick up \$2 million, with Avondale paying \$642,000 and Litchfield Park, \$50,000.

Avondale and Litchfield Park insist Goodyear's share should be larger, in part because Goodyear did not lobby the state Legislature for the state reimbursement or pushed MAG to give the cities more money.

Goodyear Mayor Jim Cavanaugh said his council agreed to pay \$1.6 million and is sticking to that.

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